

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/513,966

Examiner

Joseph W. Drodge

Applicant(s)

NANNO ET AL.

Art Unit

1797

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment and RCE of 7/24/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-13 and 15, now renumbered claims 1-13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application  |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>20080730</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/6/2008</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                   | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                         |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nathaniel McQueen on July 30, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:       --

1. (Currently amended) A method for separating a metal-resin joint comprising the steps of:

(1) immersing an article comprising a metal-resin joint with a counter electrode in an alkaline solution; ~~and~~

(2) applying a voltage over a certain time period between the metal portion of said joint and said counter electrode such that said metal portion becomes cathodic and the potential of said metal portion is -2 V or higher and -0.6 V or lower relative to ~~the~~ -- a -- standard hydrogen electrode,

wherein a connecting member A for electrically connecting one terminal of a power source with the metal portion of said joint of said article comprising the metal-resin joint comprises a conductive material, a part of which is coated with an insulating oxide layer -- ; and

**(3) separating a metal portion of said joint from a resin portion of said joint** -- .

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:       --

12. (Currently amended) A method for recycling a waste article comprising the steps of:

(1) collecting a waste article comprising a metal-resin joint -- **having a resin portion and a metal portion** -- ;

(2) immersing said joint and a counter electrode in an alkaline solution;

(3) separating the resin portion from the metal portion by applying a voltage over a certain time period between the metal portion of said joint and said counter electrode such that said metal portion becomes cathodic and the potential of said metal portion is -2 V or higher and -0.6 V or lower relative to the -- **a** -- standard hydrogen electrode; and

(4) segregating the separated resin portion and said waste article from which the resin portion has been separated,

wherein a connecting member A for electrically connecting one terminal of a power source with the metal portion of said joint of said article comprising the metal-resin joint comprises a conductive material, a part of which is coated with an insulating oxide layer. --

Claim 13 has been amended as follows: --

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for separating a metal-resin joint comprising:

(a) a container made of an alkali-proof material for accommodating an article comprising a metal-resin joint -- **having a resin portion and a metal portion** -- ;

(b) an alkaline solution contained in said container;

(c) a counter electrode immersed in said alkaline solution;

(d) a power source;

(e) a connecting member A for electrically connecting one terminal of said power source with the metal portion of said joint of said article comprising the metal-resin joint, said

connecting member A comprising a conductive material a part of which is coated with an insulating oxide layer;

(f) a connecting member B for electrically connecting the other terminal of said power source with said counter electrode;

(g) a measuring means for measuring the potential of said metal portion; and

(h) a controlling means for controlling the voltage applied between said metal portion and said counter electrode such that said metal portion becomes cathodic and the potential of said metal portion measured by said measuring means is -2 V or higher and -0.6 V or lower relative to the -- a -- standard hydrogen electrode. -- .

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are deemed to distinguish for reasons enumerated in the Remarks accompanying the 7/24/2008 Amendment and Interview of 7/10/2008. The changes made by Examiner's Amendment were all made to mitigate problems concerning 35 U.S.C. 112 antecedent basis and completeness of method claim 1 that required a separating step.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

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the examiner should be directed to Joseph Drodge at his direct government telephone number of 571-272-1140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from approximately 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Alternatively, to contact the examiner, send a communication via E-mail communication to the Examiner's Patent Office E-mail address: "Joseph.Drodge@uspto.gov". Such E-mail communication should be in accordance with provisions of MPEP (Manual of Patent Examination Procedures) section 502.03 & related MPEP sections. E-mail communication must begin with a statement authorizing the E-mail communication and acknowledging that such communication is not secure and will be made of record, under Patent Internet Usage Policy Article 5. A suggested format for such authorization is as follows: "Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file.

Additionally, the examiner's supervisor, David Roy Sample, of Technology Center Unit 1797, can be reached at 571-272-1376.

The formal facsimile phone number, for official, formal communications, for the examining group where this application is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or Public PAIR, and through Private PAIR only for unpublished applications. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JWD

7/30/2008

/Joseph W. Drodge/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797